

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 XMB-02 L-03  
/033 W

-----171306Z 065329 /43

P 171223Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7077  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0304

ROME FOR RCAA DWOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAIR KU  
SUBJECT: KUWAIT AIRWAYS MANAGING DIRECTOR MARZOUK RESIGNS:  
BOEING RECOMMENDATION IN TROUBLE?

REF: (A) KUWAIT 0093, (B) ROME 0516.

1. EMBASSY CANNOT CONFIRM THAT KAC RECOMMENDATION RE  
747/200 HAS BEEN RETURNED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO  
KAC FOR RECONSIDERATION. DEFENSE MINISTER  
TOLD AMBASSADOR JAN 15 THAT SELECTION MATTER WAS  
"NOW UP TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS" AND THAT CHOICE WOULD  
BE BETWEEN BOEING 747 AND LOCKHEED TRISTAR. ADVISOR  
AT CIVIL AVIATION DIRECTORATE GENERAL (DGCA) ALSO  
BELIEVES COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS STILL SEIZED OF THE  
PROBLEM. IT REMAINS POSSIBLE TO SPECULATE, THEREFORE  
THAT KAC RECOMMENDATION OF BOEING UNDER MARZOUK'S  
GUIDANCE HAS RUN INTO OPPOSITION. DGCA ADVISOR CONFIRMED  
THAT KAC OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED  
TRISTAR (AFTER ELIMINATING DC-10 ON GROUNDS OF TOO MUCH  
PASSENGER COMPARTMENT NOISE). DEFENSE MINISTER'S COMMENT  
INDICATES THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS THE OPTION OF  
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SELECTING EITHER PLANE.

2. EMBASSY CAN CONFIRM THAT JASSIM MARZOUK HAS BEEN  
REPLACED AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF KAC, BUT CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF HIS DISMISSAL ARE UNCLEAR HERE. PRESS COVERAGE OF  
KAC BOARD PROBLEMS JANUARY 8 AND 10 INDICATES THAT MINISTER  
OF FINANCE ABDURRAHMAN ATEEQY WAS UNHAPPY WITH MARZOUK ON

THREE GOUNDS: "FINANCIAL MATTERS", PURCHASE AND LATER SALE (AT HEAVY LOSS) OF AN UNSPECIFIED AIRCRAFT SOME TIME AGO, AND "THE WIDEBODIED JET DECISION". KAC CHAIRMAN FULEIJ HAS BEEN QUOTED LINKING MARZOUK'S "RESIGNATION" TO ATEEQY AND NAMING NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR (GHASSAN AL-NISF), BUT ADDING THAT MARZOUK WOULD REMAIN ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

3. SOURCE CLOSE TO KAC BOARD MEMBER TELLS US ATEEQY HAS BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH MARZOUK'S PERFORMANCE, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING PERSONAL CORRUPTION INVOLVING USE OF KAC AIRCRAFT. LOCKHEED REPRESENTATIVE, WHO OF COURSE HAS AXE TO GRIND, TELLS US TALE CONSISTENT WITH VERSION ROME REFTEL: MARZOUK IS "WELL KNOWN BOEING PARTISAN WITHIN KAC", AND MARZOUK-SPONSORED KAC RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PURCHASE BOEING 747/200 WAS "SLOPPY", FULL OF INACCURACIES AND BIASED IN FAVOR OF BOEING. STILL, LOCKHEED REP COULD PROVIDE NO DEFINITE INDICATION THAT THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS REASON FOR MARZOUK'S DISMISSAL OR THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTER'S HAD REJECTED IT. HE, OF COURSE, HOPES THAT MARZOUK'S DEPARTURE WILL AT LEAST MEAN DELAY IN FINAL WIDEBODIED DECISION, GIVING LOCKHEED OPPORTUNITY TO "CORRECT MISCONCEPTIONS" ABOUT TRISTAR AND IMPROVE ITS CHANCES FOR SELECTION.

4. KAC ENGINEERING DIRECTOR STATES HE BELIEVES MARZOUK'S DEPARTURE IS NOT RELATED TO WIDEBODIED JET DECISION. MAESTRONE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977KUWAIT00304  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 KUWAIT 93, 77 ROME 516  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KUWAIT AIRWAYS MANAGING DIRECTOR MARZOUK RESIGNS: BOEING RECOMMENDATION IN TROUBLE?  
**TAGS:** EAIR, KU, (MARZOUK, JASSIM)  
**To:** STATE ROME  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009